

Claims

1. A method for leak testing of an electrochemical element which has a thin flexible housing that is composed of a metal sheet or a metal/plastic composite sheet comprising, after assembly and formation of the element in a closed container, subjecting the electrochemical element to an increased pressure and then to a reduced pressure, and measuring any change in thickness that occurs.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the increased pressure is between about 1 and about 10 bar (absolute).

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the increased pressure is between about 4 and about 8 bar (absolute).

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the reduced pressure is between about 0 and about 500 mbar (absolute).

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the change in thickness is measured by a non-contacting measurement method.

6. A method for leak testing of an electrochemical element which has a thin flexible housing that comprises a metal sheet or a metal/plastic composite sheet comprising, after assembly, formation and storage of the element in a closed container, subjecting the electrochemical element to a reduced pressure, and measuring change in thickness that occurs.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the reduced pressure is between about 0 and about 500 mbar (absolute)

8. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the change in thickness is measured by a non-contacting measurement method.